

MARVEL

THE NATIVITY

PART ONE

164

COSTA • BAGLEY • HANNA • ALMARA

VENOM



YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



THE NATIVITY PART ONE

EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE BEEN REUNITED! BUT THE SYMBIOTE'S UNPREDICTABILITY HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR EDDIE TO PROVE VENOM'S RENEWED HEROISM TO THE PUBLIC.

RECENTLY, JESSICA DREW A.K.A. SPIDER-WOMAN TRACKED VENOM DOWN AND SUBDUED THE WICKED WEBSLINGER! BUT THE SYMBIOTE SHOWED JESSICA A VISION WHICH CONVINCED HER TO RELEASE THEM AND GIVE VENOM A SECOND CHANCE TO DO GOOD.

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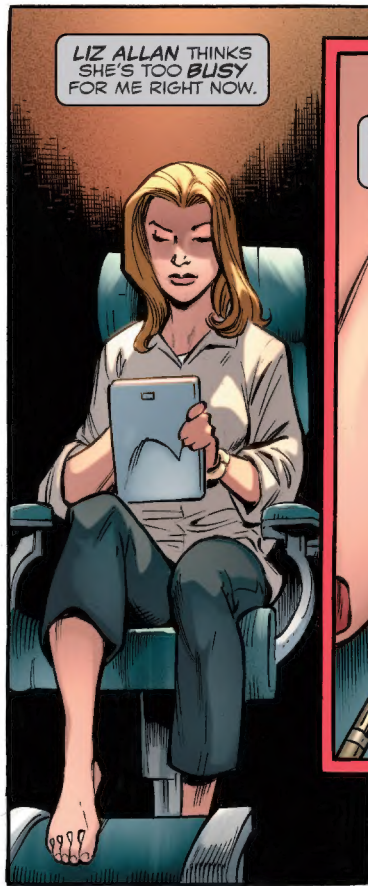
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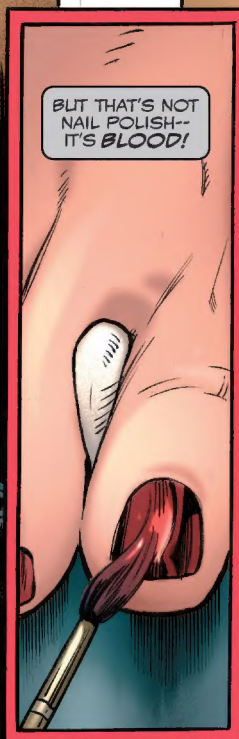
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LIZ ALLAN THINKS SHE'S TOO *BUSY* FOR ME RIGHT NOW.



BUT THAT'S NOT NAIL POLISH-- IT'S BLOOD!

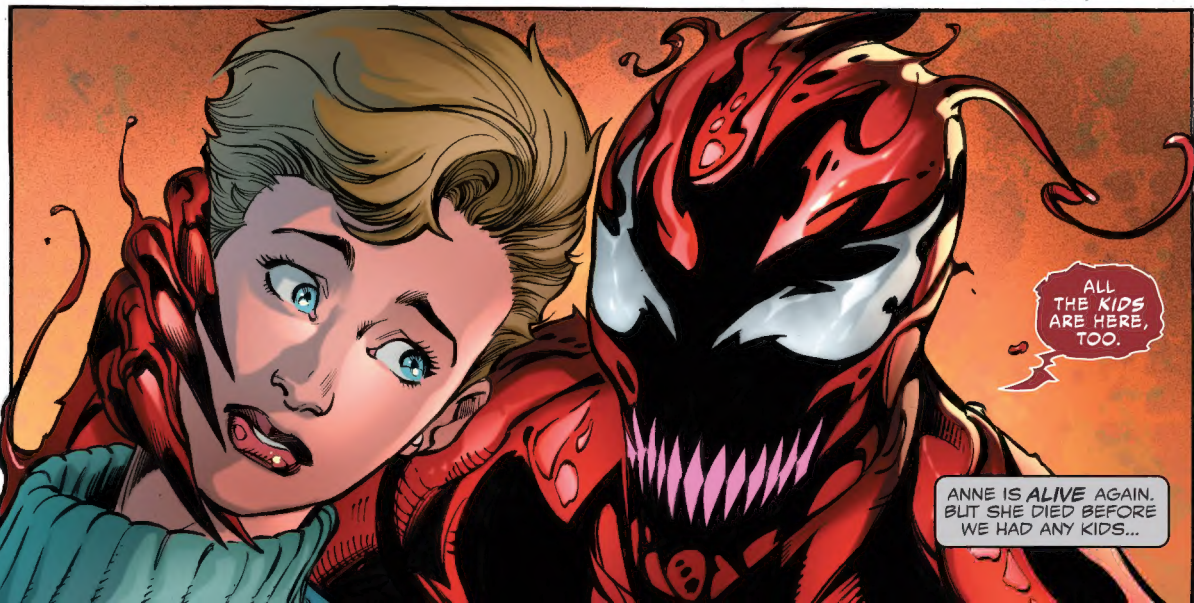


OH! HEY, POPS!



THOUGHT WE'D HAVE A LITTLE REUNION.

ANNE IS HERE. ANNE IS IN TROUBLE!



ALL THE KIDS ARE HERE, TOO.

ANNE IS ALIVE AGAIN. BUT SHE DIED BEFORE WE HAD ANY KIDS...



THE WHOLE FAMILY'S
HERE!

TOO
DANGEROUS.



AAHHH!



COUGH-
COUGH-

BLARGHHH!



WAS
THAT...YOU HAVING
A NIGHTMARE?

NO, NO NO NO.
YOUR DREAM,
EDDIE.

YOU...
SURE? IT WAS
SO VIVID...



...AND I
DON'T USUALLY
PUKE AFTER I
DREAM.

NOT SICK,
EDDIE.
WE'RE
FINE. DON'T
BELIEVE
US?



IT'S JUST
THAT YOU'VE
BEEN...

NO.
I BELIEVE
YOU.

COME
ON. LET'S GET
SOME AIR.





JUST
BREATHE. YOU'RE
DOING FINE.



JUST DO
WHAT I SAY, AND
THERE'S NOTHING
TO BE SCARED
OF.

YEAH,
DON'T WORRY,
MAN. I'M NOT
SCARED.



WHAT...
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?
YOU
SHOULD BE
SCARED.

YOU
JUST TOLD ME
THERE'S NOTHING
TO BE SCARED
OF.



I'M THE
SHOCKER!



SO
YOU...BREAK
GLASS?

DUDE, I'M
A CLERK, NOT THE
OWNER. OLD MAN TOVAR
PAYS ME MINIMUM
WAGE. **TRASH** THE
PLACE.



I CAN LIQUEFY YOUR BRAINS WITH THESE VIBRATIONS! NOW GET THE JEWELS INTO THE BAG!



HOLY ~~###~~!



THAT'S RIGHT. NOW YOU'RE SCARED! THE SHOCKER DOESN'T SCREW AROUND!

NOW, I WANT ALL THE DIAMONDS IN--



YOU GOT A LEAKY AIR CONDITIONER OR--



OH.



SORRY.
YOU WERE TALKING
ABOUT LIQUEFIED
BRAINS?

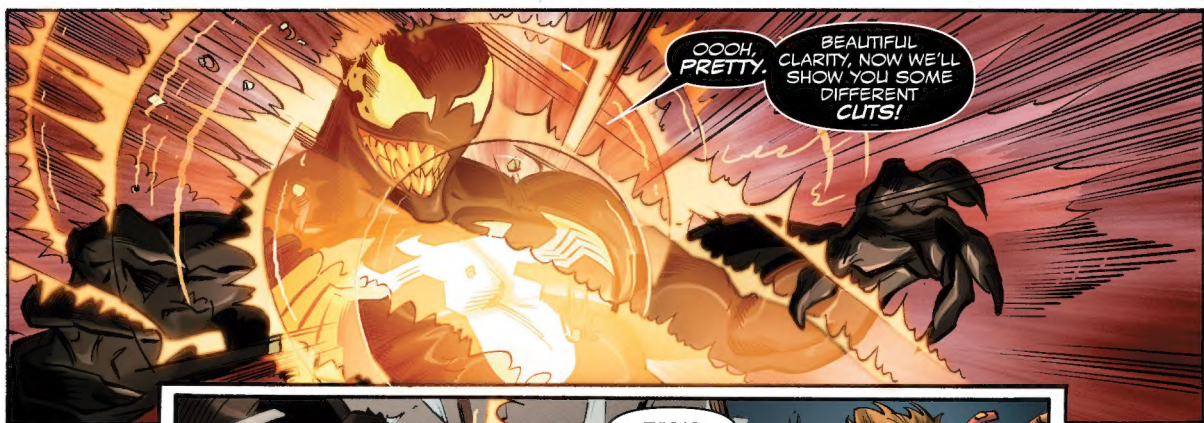
ALWAYS
MAKES US A LITTLE
PECKISH.



GET
SHOCKED!



TICKLES!

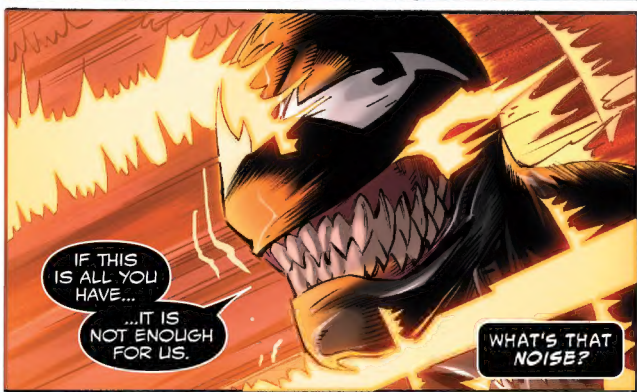




RAAAHHH!

STAY
BEHIND US!
WE WILL SHIELD
YOU FROM THIS
MORON'S
ATTACK.

OKAY...
MAYBE THIS IS A
LITTLE OUT OF
CONTROL.



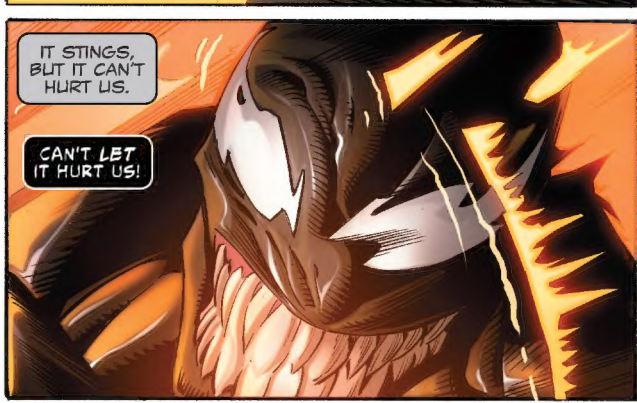
IF THIS
IS ALL YOU
HAVE...
...IT IS
NOT ENOUGH
FOR US.

WHAT'S THAT
NOISE?



WE'RE HEARING THE
JEWELS VIBRATING.
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

GETTING
LOUDER.



IT STINGS,
BUT IT CAN'T
HURT US.

CAN'T LET
IT HURT US!

MUST GO!
KEEP SAFE!

STOP!
WHAT ARE
YOU--

WHAT...

DID
I JUST
WIN?

**I
WON!**

**I DID
IT!!!**



YES!
IN YOUR
FACE!



THIS
IS EXACTLY
WHAT THE POWER
OF POSITIVE
THINKING IS ALL
ABOUT.

STEALING
THAT BOOK FROM
THE PRISON LIBRARY
ALMOST MADE IT
WORTH GETTING
LOCKED UP!



THIS IS IT!
THINGS ARE FINALLY
TURNING AROUND! MAYBE
I CAN FINALLY OPEN
THAT CAT SANCTUARY
I--
OW,
GOD!



YOU
IDIOT!

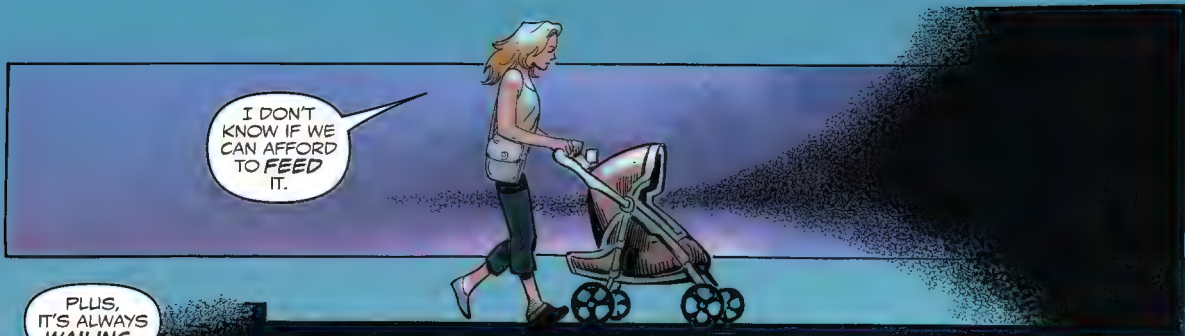
AW, AW,
CRAP.



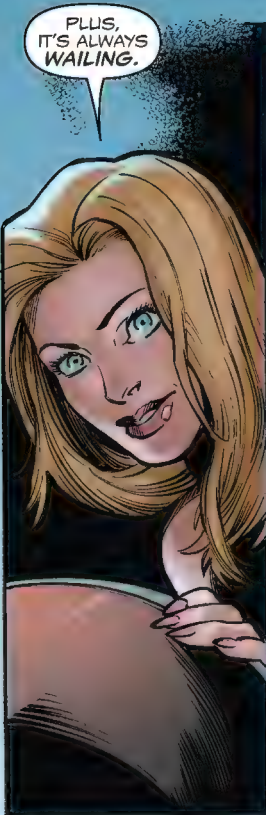
YOU!
ON YOUR
KNEES!

AW,
CRAP.

"I DON'T
KNOW, EDDIE."



I DON'T
KNOW IF WE
CAN AFFORD
TO FEED
IT.



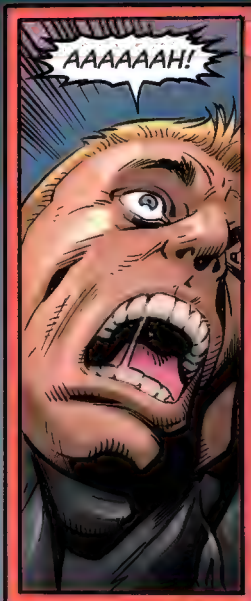
PLUS,
IT'S ALWAYS
WAILING.



BUT AT
LEAST IT HAS
YOUR SMI--



AIEEE!



AAAAAAH!



WHERE...
WHERE ARE
WE?

HAD TO GET
AWAY, EDDIE.
HAD TO GET
SAFE.

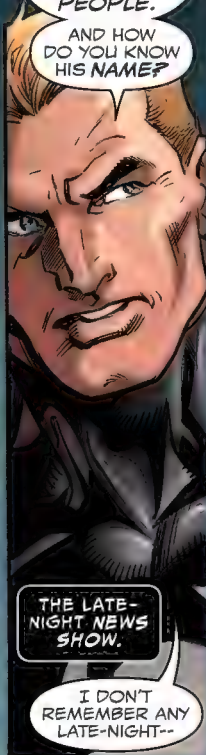
GET
AWAY FROM
THE **SHOCKER**.
AFTER WE ALMOST
BEAT HIM.

HERMAN SCHULTZ
IS STUPID, EDDIE.

ALREADY
CAUGHT BY
POLICE.

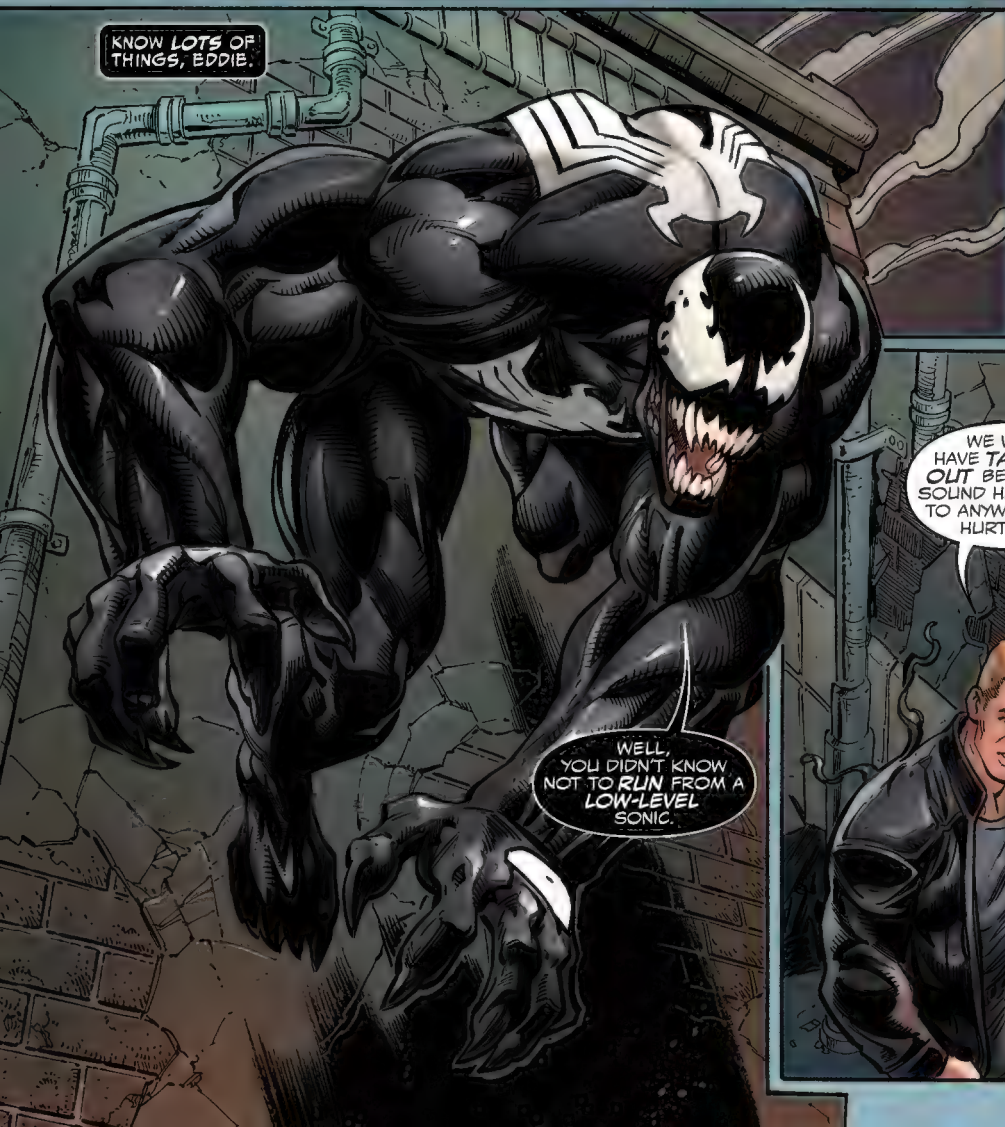
THAT'S NOT
THE POINT. YOU
RAN AWAY, AND
YOU POTENTIALLY
ENDANGERED
INNOCENT
PEOPLE.

AND HOW
DO YOU KNOW
HIS NAME?



THE LATE-
NIGHT NEWS
SHOW.

I DON'T
REMEMBER ANY
LATE-NIGHT--



KNOW LOTS OF
THINGS, EDDIE.

WELL,
YOU DIDN'T KNOW
NOT TO **RUN** FROM A
LOW-LEVEL
SONIC.

WE WOULD
HAVE **TAKEN HIM**
OUT BEFORE THAT
SOUND HAD BUILT UP
TO ANYWHERE NEAR
HURTING US.

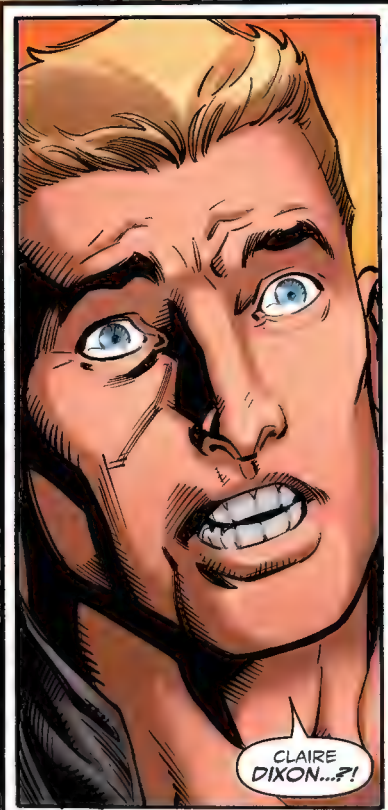
HAD TO
PROTECT
US, EDDIE!



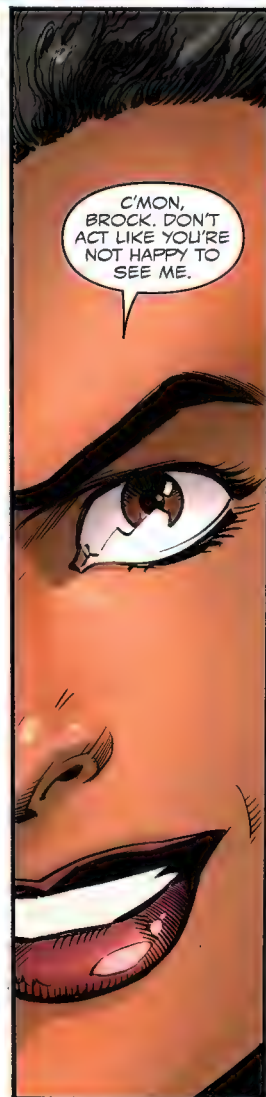




FANCY
RUNNING INTO
YOU.

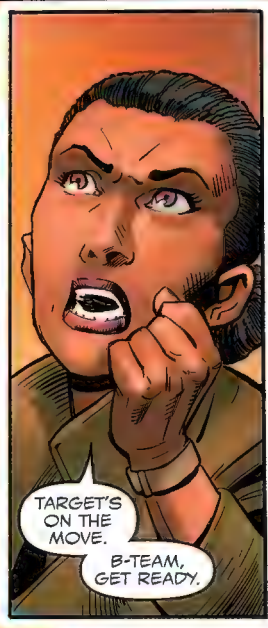


CLAIRE
DIXON...?!





MAYBE
LOSE MY
NUMBER!



TARGET'S
ON THE
MOVE.
B-TEAM,
GET READY.

WHERE...?

WE HAVE
LOST VISUAL
ON THE TARGET.
REPEAT--WE
HAVE LOST VISUAL.

AAAAHH!

HE'S
CAMOUFLAGED
HIMSELF! SWITCH TO
THERMALS!

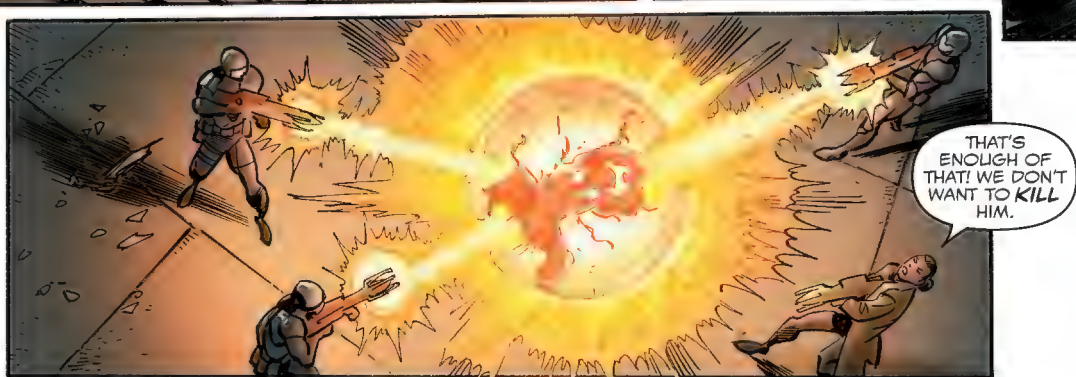
KILL THAT
WOMAN!

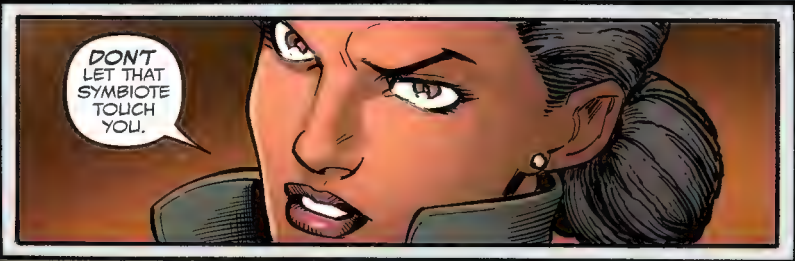
NO!
WE WILL
NOT.

DIXON AND
BROCK HAVE A
HISTORY. WE WILL
NOT HARM HER
WHEN WE CAN
FLEE.

IF HE
ESCAPES
THIS BLOCK,
WE MIGHT NEVER
REACQUIRE
HIM.

USE THE
INCINERATORS.
BLOW THE GAS TANKS
ON THOSE CARS.
WE NEED HIM
CONTAINED.

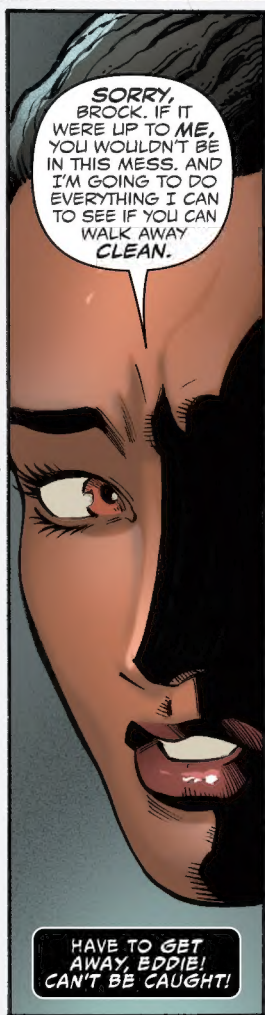






DIXON...
WHY ARE YOU
DOING
THIS?

WE...WERE
PARTNERS. I
THOUGHT...



SORRY,
BROCK. IF IT
WERE UP TO ME,
YOU WOULDN'T BE
IN THIS MESS. AND
I'M GOING TO DO
EVERYTHING I CAN
TO SEE IF YOU CAN
WALK AWAY
CLEAN.

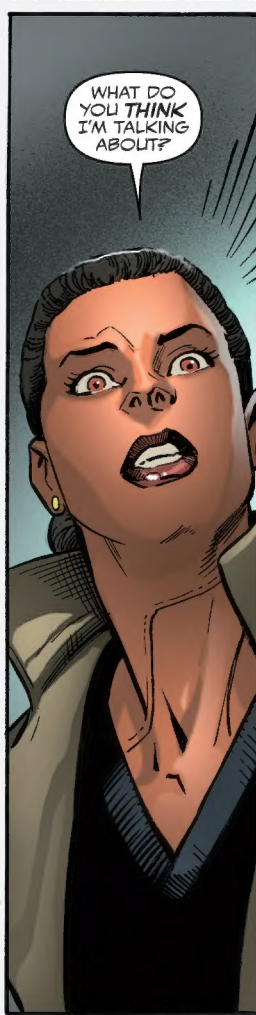
HAVE TO GET
AWAY, EDDIE!
CAN'T BE CAUGHT!



BUT YOU'RE
BONDED WITH
THAT **SUIT** AGAIN, AND
WE JUST CAN'T HAVE
IT OUT THERE WITH
WHAT'S ABOUT TO
HAPPEN.

MADE A
MISTAKE,
EDDIE. SHOULD
HAVE TOLD.

...WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?



WHAT DO
YOU **THINK**
I'M TALKING
ABOUT?



THE
SYMBIOTE'S ABOUT
TO SPAWN.

YOU'RE
GOING TO BE
A DADDY.

TO BE CONTINUED...



Eddie's Clubhouse

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AT LONG LAST, the secret months in the making stands revealed: **THE VENOM SYMBIOTE IS ABOUT TO SPAWN!**

What does that mean for Venom, both Eddie Brock AND the symbiote? And can anything be done to prevent this new life-form from taking after Carnage, Scream and so many other symbiotic spawns of Venom's and leading a life of villainy?

If it's even a symbiote at all, that is...

The only way to find out is to keep reading, Venomaniacs!

VE-ditor Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York!

As I write this, winter storm Quinn (hey, when'd we decide to start naming regular ol' storms, anyway?) is making its way across the Northeast, as this endless winter continues.

But as cold as it is outside, the comic shops are **RED HOT** if you're a Venom fan, because we've got not one, but **TWO** tremendous stories on sale **RIGHT NOW!**

Released alongside this very comics mag is **VENOMIZED #1** from Cullen Bunn and Iban Coello! The epic conclusion to the saga that began with **VENOMVERSE**, **VENOMIZED** sees the Poisons arrive on Earth with an eye for consumption and conquest...if not total annihilation! There'll be more than one surprise along the way, so don't miss a single moment!



Hey, Eddie's Clubhouse!

Man, I've **REALLY** enjoyed reading the **VENOM** series since Eddie came back from the ashes. I've loved his stories since I was a kid. One of my favorite ones was "Truckstop of Doom!" in the **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #25**. "Truckstop" was actually the first time I was introduced to Venom. An artist actually drew me an exact copy of the panel where Venom said: "We're called Venom and we play by our rules." That's a special memory of mine from when I was going through a sad personal situation but **VENOM**

cheered me up. I loved how he was a super hero, had all of Spider-Man's powers and wore a black suit with the white spider logo.

You guys have pulled out all of the stops with this series. Great Job, Stupendous, Fantastic and Make Mine Marvel!

I have decided to keep subscribing for the rest of my life as long as Eddie is Venom (or if someone else that I like takes over). Thank you, and could you have Eddie team up with other heroes more often? Sandman is probably my favorite villain but I liked him more when he was a hero. Also, how about resurrecting Spidercide? Venom could team up with or fight Carrion, Dr. Doom, Red Skull, Carnage, Hobgoblin, Demogoblin, Scarecrow and others, too!

Also, my favorite costume is the original black suit Spidey (besides his classic red-and-blue design). Could we see some "Untold Stories" of when Pete wore the symbiote? Last but not least--thanks for having Jessica Drew A.K.A. Spider-Woman in **VENOM #161**, too! I've collected the entirety of her most recent series! I've got to go but remember I support you all the way!

Chris K.

Hey, Chris! Thanks for reading, writing, and subscribing! You have no idea how great it is to hear from you and other readers like you who have been helped through tough times with books we publish here at the House of Ideas -- brightening peoples' days is part of the reason we took these jobs in the first place! We hope you dig what's in store for Venom next, and be sure to tell your pals to follow your lead and subscribe!

Hey, guys--it's me again! I'm fighting off the flu at the moment but I just finished **VENOM #162**. I'm really enjoying the crossover between Venom and the original X-Men. It may not be a popular opinion but I especially enjoyed watching Eddie call out Jean and the others on their hypocrisy.

Though I found it odd in **VENOM #161** when Eddie has a face-to-face with Jessica Drew about how he's changed. Then, we jump to #162 and Eddie claims that people don't ever change. What's up with that? Anyway, I'll write you guys back next week.

You all have a great day and keep up the hard work!

Jeremy "The Jerm" B.

Thanks for reading, and GET WELL SOON, GERM-Y!

As for people never changing, **VENOM #161** takes place immediately after the epic **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM** crossover "Venom Inc.," in which Eddie Brock and the symbiote were cured of a chemical imbalance in Eddie's bloodstream that was making the symbiote erratic. That cure is the change Venom's referring to in #161!

Dear **VENOM** Team,

I just wanna say what an amazing job you're doing with Venom. I loved seeing his team-ups in "Venom Inc." and "Poison-X." Are there any other team-ups you're planning for the future?

Long-Time Fan,
Jason S.

Hey, Jason! Thanks for reading and for writing! If it's Venomicious crossovers you're looking for, you can't get much better than VENOMIZED, a five-issue epic that starts this week! Be sure to tell your comic shop to add it to your pull list!

Beyond that, you'll just have to keep reading!

Hi there!

Long time Venom fan here! I've been growing up with Venom since the '90s and I've loved his transformation from typical Spidey villain to antihero. I also enjoy the huge "family" of symbiotes that's grown throughout the comics. I've loved the portrayal of Flash Thompson. Getting to see his rebirth as Agent Anti-Venom is a fun idea with a lot of potential. I'm excited for the Venom movie as well and can't wait to find out if any of the possible story arcs for the film that are being tossed around the rumor mill turn out to be true.

Thanks again for all the awesome work with one of my favorites, if not, my favorite Marvel character. I picked up **VENOM #161** today and can't wait to read it. Lastly, I would love to see more chapters in the **VENOMVERSE** or **EDGE OF VENOMVERSE** stories since that was also a wildly interesting concept to me.

Who is to say we couldn't see some of these Venom heroes in their own spin-offs? Maybe that's just wishful thinking on my end.

Much love, you guys!
Austin D.

Thanks for reading, Austin, and for the kind words! I've got good news for you, too: VENOMIZED exists and is ON SALE RIGHT NOW!!! AHhhh WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! GO GET IT! PUT THIS COMIC BOOK DOWN RIGHT NOW AND GO BACK TO THE COMIC SH--

Okay, Austin's probably gone now, so I can stop yelling at him.

That's all the space we've got for this one, readers! Be back in TWO WEEKS for VENOM #165!

Stay sharp!
Devin

@edevinlewis

NEXT:



ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!

DON'T MISS THE ADVENTURE THAT SETS UP THE FALL'S EPIC VENOM SAGA, TRUE BELIEVERS! IN THE MEANTIME, BE SURE TO WRITE TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM AND LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING -- MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!



AN  ROBOROS
RELEASE - DCP